

The Tragedie

*Qu.* Tis full of thy foule wrongs.

*King.* My fathers death.

*Qu.* Thy selfe hath that dishonord.

*King.* Then by my selfe.

*Qu.* Thy selfe, thy selfe misuseth.

*King.* Why, then by God.

*Qu.* Gods wrong is most of all:

If thou hadst feard, to breake an oath by him,  
The vnitie the King my brother made,  
Had not bene broken, nor my brother slaine.  
If thou hadst feard to breake an oath by him,  
The imperiall metrel circling now thy brow,  
Had graft the tender temples of my childe,  
And both the Princes had bene breathing here,  
Which now two tender play-fellowes for dust,  
Thy broken faith hath made a praye for wormes.

*King.* By the time to come.

*Qu.* That thou hast wrongd in time orepast,  
For I my selfe haue many teares to wash  
Hereafter time for time, by thee past wrongd,  
The children liue, whose parents thou hast slaughtred,  
Vngouernd youth, to wayle it with their age.  
The parents liue whose children thou hast butcherd,  
Old withered plants to waile it with their age:  
Sweare not by time to come, for that thou hast  
Misused, care vsed, by time misused orepast.

*King.* As I intend to prosper and repent,  
So thrue I in my dangerous attempt,  
Of hostile armes, my selfe my selfe confound,  
Day yeeld me not thy light, nor night thy rest,  
Be opposite, all planets of good lucke  
To my proceedings, if with pure hearts loue,  
Immaculated deuotion, holy thoughts,  
I render not thy beauteous princely daughter,  
In her consists my happinesse and thine,  
Without her, followes to this land and me,  
To thee, her selfe, and many a Christian soule,  
Sad desolation, ruine and decay,  
It cannot be auoided but by this:  
It will not be auoided but by this:

of Richard the third.

Therefore good mother (I must call you so)  
Be the attorney of my loue to her.

Pleade what I will be, not what I haue bene,  
Not by deserts, but what I will deserue:

Vrge the necessitie and state of times,  
And be not peeuish fond in great designs.

*Qu.* Shall I be tempted of the Diuell thus?

*King.* I, if the diuell tempt thee to do good.

*Qu.* Shall I forget my selfe to be my selfe?

*King.* I, if your selves remembrance wrong your selfe.

*Qu.* But thou didst kill my children.

*King.* But in your daughters wombe, Ile burie them,  
Where in that nest of spicerie there shall breed,  
Selves of themselves to your recomfiture.

*Qu.* Shall I go win my daughter to thy will?

*King.* And be a happy mother by the deed.

*Qu.* I go, write to me very shortly.

*King.* Beare her my true loues kisse: farewell. *Ex.*  
Relenting foole, and shallow changing woman. *Enter.*

*Rat.* My gracious soueraigne, on the *Western* coast,  
Rideth a puissant Naue. To the shore,  
Throng many doubtfull hollow-hearted friends,  
Vnarmd, and vnresolud to beate them backe:  
Tis thought that Richmond is their Admirall:  
There they heull, expecting but the ayd,  
Of Buckingham to welcome them a shore.

*King.* Some light-foote friend, post to the Duke of No  
Ratcliffe thy selfe, or Catesby, where is he?

*Car.* Heere my Lord.

*King.* Flie to the Duke: post thou to Salisbury,  
When thou comest there: dull vnmindfull villaine  
Why standst thou still, and goest not to the Duke?

*Car.* First mightie soueraigne, let me know your minde  
What from your grace I shall deliuer him.

*King.* O true, good Catesbie, bid him leuie straight,  
The greatest strength and power he can make,  
And meete me presently at Salisbury.

*Rat.* What it is your highnes pleasure I shal do at Salis

*King.* Why what wouldst thou do there before I go?